



Land for Maine's Future Program

Minutes of the Meeting
September 20, 2005

Pine Tree State Arboretum
Augusta, Maine

Board Members Present:

Commissioner George Lapointe
Commissioner Dan Martin
Commissioner P. McGowan

SPO Director Martha Freeman
Jeff Thaler

Carole Dyer
Warren Balgooyen

Board Members Absent:

Commissioner Bob Spear

Leon Gorman

Marcia McKeague

LMF Staff Members Present:

Tim Glidden
Jim Connors

Steve Brooke
R. Collin Therrien

Aline Lachance

Others

Ed Kfoury and Dick Spencer, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust
Nancy Perlson, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust
Bethany Atkins, Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association
Bruce Kidman, The Nature Conservancy
Alan Hutchinson and Jake Metzler, Forest Society of Maine
Jeff Romano, Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Sam Hodder, Trust for Public Lands
Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Stephanie Gilbert, Maine Dept. of Agriculture, F&RR
Sue Inches, State Planning Office
David Etnier, Dept. Marine Resources
Ralph Knoll, Dept. of Conservation

Minutes of the Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Carole Dyer to approve the July 19, 2005 Minutes of the Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

Water Access Project

- **Cupsuptic Lake Park Proposal** (North Shore Oquossic Lake) Adamstown Twp., Oxford County (125 + acres in fee under PA with DOC)

This proposal seeks to secure public access to Cupsuptic Lake and protect significant undeveloped shoreline and riparian habitat. While there are three public boat ramps on Cupsuptic and Mooselookmeguntic Lakes it is illegal to swim at these sites. The parcels currently being considered for acquisition provide the only readily accessible legal public swimming access anywhere on the 16,000 acre Cupsuptic and Mooselookmeguntic Lakes. The parcels total 125 acres and have over two miles of frontage on Cupsuptic Lake and over 500 feet on Toothaker Brook. They contain extensive frontage on State Route # 16 and are prime for development. If offered on the open market these lands would likely sell quickly for seasonal residential development. Acquisition must take place soon before these parcels are offered for sale to the highest bidder.

➔ Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Carole Dyer to support acquisition of the project. Vote was unanimous.

5 % Farm Capital Projects

- **Clary Hill – Jackson parcel, Waldoboro**

The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources is requesting a grant in the amount of \$3,375.00 in order to make a one-time capital improvement grant to the Jackson Farm. The funds will assist the owner re-grade and repair the access road to the blueberry field, clear land, remove stumps and rocks, and backfill holes in order to increase crop yield and facilitate blueberry harvesting.

➔ Vote

A motion was made by Jeff Thaler and seconded by Carole Dyer to approve a capital improvement grant in the amount of \$3,375.00. Vote was unanimous.

- **Clary Hill – Boyington parcel, Union**

The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources is requesting a grant in the amount of \$500.00 to make a one-time capital improvement grant to the MVLT-Boysington tract. The funds will assist the Medomak Valley Land Trust with covering costs associated with cutting brush along property's rock wall boundaries and remove boulders in order to increase crop yield and facilitate mechanized blueberry harvesting.

➔ Vote

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Jeff Thaler to approve a capital improvement grant in the amount of \$500.00. Vote was unanimous.

Project Reconfiguration

- **Sand Hill Farm, Somerville**

The Department of Agriculture, F&RR and the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association are seeking approval to modify the proposal submitted in October 2004 which sought to protect the farm as a one 206-acre parcel with one conservation easement. The revised proposal is to protect 202 acres as two parcels with two identical conservation easements and to exclude a 4-acre lot for potential future residential use.

➔ Vote

A motion was made by Jeff Thaler and seconded by Commissioner Martin to Table the vote on the reconfiguration the project until further information is provided regarding the boundaries. Vote was unanimous.

Other Business

- **Farmland Project Updates**

- Brae Maple Farm

Discussions regarding the reconfiguration of the project are still on-going between the George's River Land Trust and owners. An update will be provided at the next Board meeting in November.

- Kennebec & Waldo Co. Landscapes

Jerry Bley has been hired by Maine Farmland Trust to work on the project. During the summer, critical farmlands were prioritized. A regional appraisal approach to the various land types available in the project area is currently being undertaken. This task is expected to be completed in October. Stephanie noted that a project update will be provided at the next Board meeting as well as an updated project budget.

- Hanson Farm (*McDougal Orchards*)

Stephanie Gilbert noted that a dedication ceremony would take place on October 14, 2005 at the McDougal Orchards Farmland. The purpose of the event is to highlight the farm and farmland protection accomplishments. Invitations would be mailed to board members.

- **Planning for a potential new funding round**

Tim summarized final legislative action on the proposed LMF bond and asked the Board to establish an adhoc committee to review the LMF process and scoring criteria for any needed revisions. Chairman Lapointe will convene the group which will report back to the November Board meeting.

- **Bond Campaign**

Bruce Kidman is spearheading a coalition [Citizens to Save Maine’s Heritage] of conservation groups and others representing more than 270 businesses, associations and organizations to support the \$12 million land preservation bond during the November 8, 2005 election. They plan on raising \$200,000 and use TV ads, direct mailings and the Internet to mobilize support for the bond. The recent Jordan Farm celebration helped launch the campaign. Commissioner McGowan stated that an early poll taken showed 62% of Mainers in favor of the bond.

- **New pilot program – Maine Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program**

A broad coalition of commercial marine fishing interests, nonprofit groups, and others have been working to protect access to working waterfronts essential to Maine’s commercial marine fishing industry. This past legislative session sent a constitutional amendment to voters to establish a current use taxation program for working waterfront property and a pilot program to test the model of buying and conserving real estate interests in waterfront properties. LMF has been tasked with the implementation of a pilot program in partnership with the Department of Marine Resources. On September 6th, Tim attended his first meeting on the pilot project. He will keep the Board posted on progress.

- **Board Terms and Current Committee Assignments**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>	Ex-Officio Board Members
Warren Balgooyan	2 nd	1-31-04	Martha Freeman, SPO Director
Marcia McKeague	2 nd	1-31-06	George Lapointe, Commissioner, DMR
Leon Gorman	1 st	1-31-07	R. Danny Martin, Commissioner, IF&W
Carole Dyer	2 nd	11-13-07	Patrick McGowan, Commissioner, DOC
Jeff Thaler	1 st	1-31-08	Bob Spear, Commissioner, AF&RR

LMF Committees

Appraisal Committee

Carole Dyer
Leon Gorman
Jeff Thaler
R. Dan Martin, Commissioner, IF&W

Scoring Committee

George Lapointe, Commissioner, DMR
Martha Freeman, SPO Director
Warran Balgooyen

Nominations Committee

Carole Dyer
Marcia McKeague
Patrick McGowan, Commissioner, DOC
Bob Spear, Commissioner, AF&RR

Easement Review Committee

Marcia McKeague
Warren Balgooyen
Martha Freeman, SPO Director
George Lapointe, Commissioner, DMR

- **Potential 2006 Board Schedule**

The following tentative dates have been selected for **2006**: January 17th, March 14th, May 16-17th, July 18th, September 19th and November 14th.

Adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

